

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: DMORAN

APPROVED BY S/S-O: MTANNER

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O 020006Z JUN 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 127527 TOSEC 020222

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 7: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY

1. LAOS

A. THE PATHET LAO PSYCHE: WHY DO THEY DO THE THINGS THEY DO?

SINCE IT IS NOT IN LAOS' SELF-INTEREST TO SEVER ASSISTANCE OR DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH THE US, EMBASSY VIENTIANE, SEEKING EXPLANATIONS FOR THE CURRENT WAVE OF PATHET LAO INSPIRED OR COMMITTED ANTI-AMERICAN ACTS SUGGESTS SEVERAL ALTERNATIVE CAUSES:

--ALTHOUGH THE PATHET LAO RECOGNIZE THAT LAOS NEEDS AID TO DEVELOP ITS RESOURCES, THEY PLACE POLITICAL GOALS ABOVE ECONOMIC ONES, AND ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT ECONOMIC SACRIFICES TO ESTABLISH TOTAL CONTROL.

--THE PATHET LAO ARE LAO-CENTRIC, RECKON THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE LAOS VERY MUCH IN MIND AND BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT THE US IS WILLING TO PAY A CONSIDERABLE SECRET

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PRICE IN HUMILIATION AND MONEY TO MAINTAIN A PRESENCE IN LAOS.

--ALTHOUGH OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO "OWE" LAOS ASSISTANCE,

US AID IS VIEWED AS WAR REPARATIONS.

--WHILE THE PATHET LAO, IN STANDARD COMMUNIST FASHION, MAY BE RESPONDING TO POPULAR PRESSURES, THEY MAY ALSO SIMPLY BE VENTING THEMSELVES OF TWENTY YEARS ACCUMULATED-ANTIPATHY TO THE US.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE DO NOT YET KNOW IF THE PATHET LAO CAMPAIGN OF HARASSMENT HAS RUN ITS COURSE. IF THE PLANNED NEGOTIATIONS FOR OUR FUTURE ASSISTANCE DO NOT GO AS THEY DESIRE, OR IF CONGRESS SHOWS LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR CONTINUED AID, THEN WE MAY GET ANOTHER DOSE OF THE STICK.

B. NEW AID AGREEMENT WOULD CURE ALL PROBLEMS

IN A CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI BY CHARGE CHAPMAN, PHOUMI SAID:

--FOLLOWING WHAT THE PGNU HOPED WOULD BE RAPID NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TERMINATION OF USAID AND RENEGOTIATION OF A NEW AID AGREEMENT, AN ENTIRELY NEW CLIMATE WOULD BE CREATED BETWEEN LAOS AND THE US.

--WHILE THE PGNU IS HAVING SERIOUS PROBLEMS CONTROLLING THE SECURITY SITUATION, THERE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE SECURITY PROVIDED TO MR. HABIB TO PREVENT ANY EMBARRASSING INCIDENTS.

--AN INCIDENT INVOLVING AN EMBASSY MARINE SECURITY GUARD (THREATS WERE ALLEGEDLY MADE BY THE MSG AGAINST SEVERAL "STUDENTS") WOULD BE SETTLED WITH THE MARINE'S JUNE 2 DEPARTURE.

2. PORTUGUESE CRISIS TEMPORARILY RESOLVED

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ALTHOUGH THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAS ACKNOWLEDGED DISTORTIONS IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ENDORSED THE ROLE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE PS HAS RETURNED
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TO THE GOVERNMENT, EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT THE SOCIALISTS REMAIN UNSATISFIED. THE REPUBLICA CASE IS NOT RESOLVED; THE SOCIALISTS ARE NOT FULLY CONFIDENT THAT LABOR LAW PROVISIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED; AND THE QUESTION OF LOCAL ELECTIONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY.

3. LEBANON RETURNING TO NORMAL

IN A FINAL SITREP DATED NOON JUNE 1, EMBASSY BEIRUT REPORTS THAT AS THE SECURITY SITUATION IS RELATIVELY QUIET IT PLANS TO RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS ON MONDAY. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN SCATTERED TERRORIST INCIDENTS

THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE BOMBING OF ITT'S BEIRUT OFFICE. PREMIER-DESIGNATE KARAME, CITING RESTORATION OF INTERNAL STABILITY AS HIS FIRST PRIORITY, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL MORE DAYS TO FORM HIS NEW CABINET.

4. SAUDIS CONSIDER PERSIAN GULF SECURITY PACT?

EMBASSY JIDDA REPORTS THAT PRINCE FAHD'S PLANNED VISITS TO KUWAIT, BAGHDAD, ABU DHABI AND IRAN AND RECENT STATEMENTS BY KHALID AND FAHD, INDICATE THAT THE SAUDIS ARE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF A PERSIAN GULF SECURITY PACT. SUCH A PLAN WOULD SEEK TO REMOVE THE US FROM BAHRAIN AND THE USSR FROM UM QASR. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY POINTS OUT THAT SOME SAUDIS, INCLUDING THE DEFENSE MINISTER, STILL SEE IRAN AS THE MAIN EXPANSIONARY THREAT IN THE GULF REGION, AND WILL SEEK TO RETAIN A US PRESENCE AS A DETERRENT.

5. ANGOLA: WIDESPREAD FIGHTING BREAKS OUT OUTSIDE LUANDA

EMBASSY LUANDA REPORTS THAT WIDESPREAD FIGHTING TO THE NORTHEAST AND EAST OF LUANDA MAY MARK THE BEGINNING OF A GENERAL MPLA OFFENSIVE. MPLA'S MINIMUM GOAL, AS YET UNOBTAINED, IS TO FORCE FNLA FORCES FROM MPLA ETHNIC AREAS. WHILE THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS CALLED FOR A CEASEFIRE AND HAS THREATENED TO USE ALL PORTUGUESE
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FORCES, INCLUDING AIR POWER, TO END THE FIGHTING, MPLA LOCAL COMMANDERS HAVE CONTINUED PRESSING THEIR ATTACKS. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS INTERRUPTION, TOSEC, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE127527
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S-O: DMORAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750191-0731
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750699/baaaalkt.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, LA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006